

Journal of Spirit Manifestations, 1852-1854

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1852

Journal of Spiritual
Manifestations
being
A synopsis of the experience of WB Benson
and others in
the mysterious Phenomena of spiritual
Intercourse

being a brief but faithful record of the doings and sayings of
some of our Invisible
Visitant at –
my own
residence, and the Residence of others

through
Jane Benson (ages 12 years) Medium

W.B. Benson

Boonville
Missouri

Thursday Evening Nov 18th 1852

Having been made acquainted with the fact that several extraordinary manipulations called spirit Rapping had been witnessed by my wife, Mr D DeHaven and others during my absence from home, convinced me that something more powerful than "Animal Magnetism," or "Electricity," was exerted on those occasions; and that my opinion of the non spirituality, or Interlectuality, of this unseen power or agency was but ill founded. I therefore determined this evening to examine, and investigate more closely the matter; discarding therefore all my previous notions, and prejudices; I calmly set down with my little Daughter Jane Benson (Medium). The rappings commenced on the Table Stand, then moved and tipped slightly - a pause - then loud taps; upon being asked by myself do you wish to communicate to me? was answerd, yes. The Alphabet was called over, and the following communication given: "I wish to convince you that I am spirit." I then proposed for the Table to follow me and tip into my lap as a convincing jest; without the hands of the Medium resting on the table; was answerd - yes.

The Table Stand immediately commenced moving towards me as if impelled by some powerful agency - as it advanced - I receeded - we performed a semicircle half round the room, when close up it stopped in my lap. Loud taps commenced; upon being interrogated, said I will show lights in 12 minutes. At this moment Mr D DeHaven, his wife, Miss Avery & Ezra Gilbert - knocked at the door, after they had taken seats, I asked will you show the lights to the company present, ansr yes - in 12 minutes - at the expiration of that time; the lights like a bunch of stars gradually shone on the door of the wardrobe, and then by request over the mantle piece also over the looking glass, the lights assumed other forms; gradually appearing, and gradually, disappearing. The above all transpired while the room was perfectly

dark. After all present were satisfied of the reality of the Phenomena we agreed to light the candles and make up the fire the spirit promising to move the stand when we again darkened the room.

The lights were again extinguished and myself and Mr D DeHaven took our seats at the end of the room. The Stand was moved some 12 or 18 inches towards us, but being tardy in its movements and getting late we agreed to suspend further investigation until tomorrow Evening the spirits agreeing that I should have Mr D H as a witness but no one else at present.

Friday Nov 19th 1852

This morning ascertained by taps that further manifestations would be given this evening.

Myself, Wife, Daughter & Mr D DeHaven met pursuant to adjournment and after some preliminary arrangements with the spirit or spirits by taps the light was extinguished upon the question being put by my friend Mr D H How many spirits are present? The Stand tip'd violently 100 times and many and various questions were answered by the Stand tipping - we asked the spirit to elevate the stand from the floor which was done about 12 inches and came down with a loud noise jarring the stove and things in the rom. I then proposed that the stand be thrown over. Answer - yes. It went nearly over and was pulled back by Mr D H and myself. We proposed to light the candle and while the match was being lighted the Stand was violently thrown over on the floor and came down with a crashing noise.

Saturday Nov 20th 1852

Met as before at my house at 7 PM came to order in a short time locked our hands and placed our feet as usual one over the others. Upon the question being put how many spirits are present - 100 loud taps were given. The Top of the Stand unscrewed and placed on our arms and by request the top pressed upon while in that position. It was then taken off by our desire and questions answered by shifting the Top on the rod of the stand. Upon being asked will you please ring the Bell was answered - yes - taps in quick succession were then given meaning I wish to communicate and the following dispatch given by Alphabet -

Bring the bell to the table.

This was complied with, we all heard the bell as it was being drawn over and off the Table and in a moment it was brought close to my ear and rang several times then replaced on the Table. I've both asked various questions to all of them were answers received and in all our arrangements with this unseen Agency we have every reason to [beleive] that intelligence and power are combined.

A smaller Stand was also employed on this occasion it was elevated several times would to and fro in answer to questions but owing to its extreme lightness was not satisfactory and we found it difficult to understand readily anything that was spell'd out by its use. On one occasion it caused me to contend with what purported to be the spirit of my Father. I insisted that he had not spelled his name right and he by punching me with the stand maintained that he had done so. I questioned & cross questioned the spirit until I half believed I was wrong. I was a little out of temper and if I can judge by the punching of the Stand he was too. I ultimately cooled

down my friend and witness Mr D De H maintaining that I was in the wrong by misunderstanding the taps. I leave the matter but am not quite satisfied.

I've closed our investigations for the present by asking the spirits to permit other witnesses – one was chosen Mr Wash Adams and no one else.

Sunday Nov 21st 1852

This morning I enquired of the spirits who was present and by taps the following elicited. Your Father, your Wife's Mother, Lord Barron and numerous others. Upon asking who tipped and elevated the Table was answer'd your Father –

What spirit is now tapping answer'd by alphabet Lord Barron of the 7th Sphere.

Is it right to pursue our investigations to night? An' No. Because it is Sunday? –Yes- have you religious days and teachers in your sphere? – Yes – Are you always with us? No. – Do you feel more happy on this earth than in the 7th sphere? No. Will you be with us all day? Yes – Can you entrance my little Daughter Jane? Yes - Will you do so at any time today should I wish it? Yes – Will you prevent her fro seeing any evil spirits? Yes. How long will it take you to entrance her? – 5 minutes – Will you bring her out again? Yes. How long will she remain in the trance? 1 hour. Will you introduce her to my Father and ask him to write a short dispatch to me detailing some of the evens of last night and particularly to spell his name in full as he used to spell it while on this earth? Ans' Yes.

After church went home Mr H J with me. after calling the spirits I enquired if Mr H J could be present when Jane was in the trance? Ans' No.

Will you permit Mr H J to be present on Monday with the other gentlemen chosen? – yes.

On Sunday evening at three oclock Jane was entranced while the following Dispatch was enveloped wafer'd & directed to Mr. W B Benson

Present

Daguerean artist

Copy

Boonville MO 1852

My Dear Wilmer you told me that you wanted me to write you a communication about what transpired last night – I will do so – the first thing was that you asked me screw off the top of a Table Stand and I tapped once for yes.

And then you asked me if I would lift it up and I did so. And put it on your arms – that is all that I have to say for the present good bye my dear Wilmer.

Wilmer Benjamin Benson

Miss [Avery?] also received a dispatch purporting to come from her father.

Many questions were answered in writing

The number given of the spirits that reside in the 7th sphere formerly of this Earth.

The hour having expired she sat down on the chair (having previously put away the writing materials) and with a slight upward jerk of the Head was restor'd to her natural state.

Remarks The name of my father is spell'd as he used to spell it. – upon my asking Jane to spell – Willmer she says Wilmer. The dispatch is correct as far as it goes – and my agreement with this extraordinary power strictly and faithfully fulfilled. Witnesses Mr D De Haven, Mrs De Haven & Miss Avery, myself & family.

Monday Nov 22nd 1852

At 6/2 PM the following gentlemen met at my house [Viz?] D Dehaven, Wash Adams, Harrison Thompson & Willmer Benson. On this occasion there were some extraordinary manifestations but not of that decided nature that I have witnessed on other occasions.

The Table was rocked several times and by request it tipped 112 times against Mr H J. The following communications given by alphabet "unlock Your Hands" we had previously been sitting hand in hand. The table stand was then requested to pass over to Mr Wash Adams, but not doing so supposing something was wrong, we ask'd and was answer'd - Yes. Will you spell out by Alphabet? Yes. "Some are putting their hands on the Table."

We then requested the Top of the Table stand to be taken off - which was done and fell to the floor. Other things were promised, but not performed - upon enquiring the cause; we were answer'd by alphabet "There is too much confusion." These manifestations are all done in the dark. We then closed our meeting. And I feel determined to test the matter still further and to keep faith with my invisible friend that if possible go a step further than I had ever done before. The lights put out + my friends gone, I called my Wife and the little medium. We were hardly seated when loud raps continued to sound on the Table Stand. I asked will you show the lights as on former occasions? Yes. How long are we to wait Ans- 5 minutes. Must we keep perfect silence? Yes. - when nearly four minutes has expired by Daughter and Wife spoke to each other. no lights. The result of the no performance on our part of the bargains. I then said will you let down

the Top of the stand Yes. – shall I loosen the screw it is very light Yes. – I did so – will that do. Yes. – down come the top with a clash. will you turn it around. one tip. Yes. Will you unscrew the Top and place it on my lap. Yes. – shall I tighten the screw for you? one tip Yes. – I did so. – and we both heard distinctly the unscrewing of the Top of the Table as if done by Hands. The Top was lifted off when un-screw'd and placed upon our hands; our hands were joined and on our laps. I said will you press heavy on the Top that I may know your strength. one rap – Yes.- will you get on the Top of the stand that I may know your weight – Yes.- immediately the stand Top was occupied and I asked tell me your weight 12lbs press now on the stand it was done what is the amount of pressure 6lbs do all spirits weigh 12lbs no.- some more – some less – will you talk to me an hour? –no- ½ hour? No. ¼ hour? Yes. The following conversation took place my invisible friend answering by raps on the Top of the Table stand while in our laps.

Ques 1 Is Jesus Christ the son of God? – Yes-

Is the record of his sayings and doings correct? – Yes-

Was he crucified and rose from the Dead? Yes

If we take the veryations of the old and new testament for our guide and practice in prayers will it ensure a blissful Imortality – Ans – Yes – (very loud)

The ¼ hours having expired my spirit friend left – I felt so interested that I continued my enquiries but receiving no answer I found by looking at the clock the 1.4 hour had more than expired.

Wednesday Nov 24th 1852

at about 6 ½ o.c. P.M. They met at Wilmer Bensons Harison Thompson & D. DeHaven for the purpose of investing the power of Some unseen agency. They were present in the room the Gentlemen above Stated and Mr. Benson and his little Daughter Jane, "the Medium", on consulting, the so termed, Spirits it was concluded to extinguish the lights, on asking the agency if the room was dark enough, the reply was no. The room was then made darker. and on further consultation was pronounced "Dark enough" The Question was then asked will the Spirits tip the Stand with all hands off the response was yes. In five minutes. accordingly in five minutes the Stand was tipped over into Thompsons lap. after Divers tipings, the agency was asked to unscrew the top of the Stand and place on Thompsons lap, Which was Done. The Spirit was requested to prop down the neighbor (?) of it on the Stand top as laid on Thompsons armes the top was then removed on to DeHavens armes and the was propped down on in Thompsons armes, the Top, was then removed to the (top of the—crossed out) Stand and Screwed on again. after Divers questions being asked and answered, the candle was relit and the room made light. after an elaps of Some fifteen minutes, the room was again made dark When the Stand was tipped too and frow. And finely atune (?) rapped out. And the Bells was Brought and placed upon the Table When they was rang and atune rang out with them, after this Sevrl Questions was asked and answered We then Quit for the Evening to meet Friday Evening at 6 ½ o.c.

The above recorded by Mr. D. DeHaven. WBB.

December 19th 1852

Since the former many and various have been the manifestations given and that of the most convincing character that they possess a spiritual organization not having had time or opportunity to keep pace with the extraordinary doings of my unseen friends I will only give in short synopsis of the most remarkable things witness'd by myself family and some few friends.

On one occasion at Mr. D De Haven's house a spirit pretending to be the mother of Mrs. Briens gave her name the time she died and many other particulars which Mr Brans affirmed was strictly correct. The Table moved about the room and several Tunes were rap'd on the Table several at Mrs Linn at three occasions Tunes have been rapped on the guitar Mrs Barr Mrs Nelson and Miss N have sing the spirits playing an accompaniment in exact time at my house the following have been done

Tables moved in the light as well as in the dark, Tunes played on the tea tray with small Drum sticks made for this purpose also on Glass Tumblers, on the Stove the Table Stand . Bells frequently rang a few evenings ago (Wednesday 15th last) a spirit press'd his hands on my knee several times the touch was not unpleasant very gentle and feel warm.

The spirit at my request got on the Tea Tray which was held by Willie and three of my Daughters . The pressure was around 12lbs. The Tea Tray was lifted up toward the ceiling for 8 times and then gently brought down again and pushed against

the chest of each one in succession. Many items were also played or rapped on the Table Glasses etc

Last night Saturday the 18th the candle was put out at 7 oclock. The rapping commenced on the Tea Tray myself and Wife requested to move a little further from the Table when Tunes were played [illegible] apparently by Tevo and three spirits at the same time Drumming on the Tea Tray on the stand and also on a couple of Tumblers at the same time the sounds varied from very soft to very loud.

Wednesday Jany 5th 1853

This Morning at 8 ½ am I paid my City Tax to Mr West on doing so I missed a 10 dollar Gold piece no one had seen it about the House we look'd in every place whe could think of without success. I then enquired of the spirit that purports to be Lord Baron and he spell'd out instantly by alphabet "Under the Bed" we immediately look'd there and to my satisfaction found it as directed.

This evening at 6 ½ retired to the front room to converse with my invisible friend according to appointment. The raps commenced and the following given by alphabet

You will please go up to Mrs Linn to night and Mrs Benson will bath her arm as before directed.

I then asked the spirit to give me some motto or Proverb that I might remember when I saw him in the spirit world. Was answered by alphabet You will remember my vision when you see me. I replied

I have seen no vision. Do you mean that you will give me a vision of yourself so that I shall know you in the spirit world was answered – Yes.

Myself Wife and Daughter went to the residence of Mrs Linn. The servants were only at home we left promising to call again as soon as directed by the spirit to do so.

Friday Jany 7th 1853

This evening a spirit purporting to be that of Lord Baron paid me another visit and gave me by alphabet the name of a person that has my missing Daguerreotype and also of one other person that knows it is my property and my spirit informant further says it is probable but not impossible that I shall never see it again. I have had further particulars given me but it is not prudent to write.

Yesterday I asked the above spirit if he knew who it was? He answered no but he knew the young lady the original of the Daguerrotype and that he would find out where it was, and told me whether I could get it at 6 ½ all I received the communication as above intimated.

I then asked the spirit to perform on the Guitar - was answered Yes. The Guitar was placed on the card table the neck resting against the Table. How many Tuned were played most admirably with the fingers the frets when pressed upon and every Tue as far as we could judge accurately played.

At my request Lord Baron went to the spirit world for a musical friend of his, & returned in one minute with his friend, who also performed beautifully and gave readily and accurately every note called for on the guitar. They played joyous music lessons in excellent style and gave good evidence

that they both understood the science of music. I had heard music on several occasions by spirits who played well, with small Drums sticks by striking them on the string, but on this occasion the fingers were alone used, and far exceeded any of their former manifestations. The music continued about one hour when they intimated they wished to leave by rapping good night. We very reluctantly bade them farewell! Not the most remarkable fact of their performance was their mode of producing Tunes, on this occasion it was quite the reverse to the ordinary mode of playing. The strings were struck with the left hand while the right hand press'd on the frets – the small strings being next to them.

Thursday Evening Jan'y 6th 1863

This evening upon my putting the question is there any spirits present was answered by loud raps in quick succession – I said Have you anything to communicate Ans – Yes – by alphabet? Yes – The alphabet was called over and the following message given –

“Go to Mr De Haven and stay awhile. You know that you are both Odd fellows and so am I. Take Jane with you.” We immediately went over found Mr D Haven better but complained of a dull pain in his Head.

Jane placed her hands on the Table when the following was received by alphabet “Put some Camphor on his head“ I said do you mean camphorated spirits such as has been used on the throat? Ans – Yes – I did so and was told by raps it was not enough. I pour'd more and gave a second bathing when upon enquiring was told that would do, it was enough – I said if you have nothing further to say rap six loud raps, which was done. Please rap at louder, that our sick friend may hear you. 6 loud raps followed.

I will be seen in a former part of this Journal that my little Daughter Jane has been mesmerized by spirits The cause of the Discontinuance will be explained by reading the following dispatch given on Saturday morning.

Mr Benson

Dear Sir It would not be prudent for you to have your daughter Jane mesmerized It has not injured her at present but will in time to come

Persons that are mesmerized are liable to be injured by evil spirits.

[[a symbol]]

Baron.

Upon further questions being put The following was given You have not sufficient expense to distinguish – good from bad spirits. Instead of giving my communications by mesmerizing the medium as formerly – I will do so by alphabet.

Sunday Jany 9th 1853

This evening at 6 oclock we ascertained that the spirits were present and in answer to several questions the following was written through their agency by moving the hand of the medium.

I am an angel of light, not of flesh and Blood like you, But I am about and see into things more clear than you can.

I have no more to say at present by alphabet but I will talk with you

Lord Baron

Upon the questions being put what was mean by the word "things" or I can see into things more clear than you can. The following ans- was written

In reference to those little Tempers is what I mean

Lord Baron

The spirit remained nearly one hour in conversation by raps and left with a promise that he would again visit us in the course of the week.

Thursday 13th Jany

This evening at 6 ½ a spirit purporting to be that of Lord Baron again visited us but did not feel disposed to do anything except answer questions by raps. I then proposed that the spirit scratch on the Table which was done nearly as loud as I could do so. I then wished the spirit to scratch his Initials, which was also accomplished very distinctly L.B. I asked the spirit in the event of being engaged at any time when a promise had been made to me for any certain evening not to fail to send some other good spirit was answer'd in the affirmative.

Upon the question being asked where were you on last Tuesday you remember you promised to be here was answer'd alphabetically Engaged at New Orleans.

This same evening a spirit purporting to be that of my former Wife commenced rapping. I conversed some time with this spirit and was answer'd by raps to man questions concisely. I then proposed that the spirit give me some positive proof to sustain the alleged relationship by alphabet was spelled out "I remember your former kindness"

I said this is not satisfactory. With what disease did you die "colary" (cholera) This is correct but I perceived I was talking to an uneducated spirit and upon putting another test question what was the Business Profession or Trade of your Husband was answer'd alphabetically Brick Layer. I said are you sure your husband was a Brick Layer. Yes. Then you were not my wife and I have nothing further to say to you. Other instances I could give were spirits have failed to prove their identity and many other cases were they have done so very satisfactory. I would here remark it is very important to put Test Questions to every spirit that purports to be those of our Departed friends before we place any reliance upon what they may tell us and even then it is not wise to place implicit reliance on their testimony for spirits out of the Body are like spirits in the body some wise + some ignorant, some good + some bad and it requires great caution and wisdom to choose the good and reject the evil.

Sunday Evg Jany 16th 1853

This evening at 6 ½ I've obtained the raps on the desk and ascertained by raps the spirit had not been here before I requested our invisible friend to come to the Table and converse with us which was done. The Table was moved Questions answerd and other things of minor Importance which I must pass over and only write the most remarkable occurrance namely I asked the spirit to scratch his Initials on the on the Table stand ans Yes LB was scratched distinctly I enwured are you Lord Baron ans No are you Lord Byron No. will you scratch your name on the Table. Yes. The cadle was blown out and quick raps were given on the Table with a request that Harriete would call over the alphabet when Pin- was spelled out I placed a Pin on the Table which was taken up and Lord Bloat was written on the Table I said is that you real name Ans No. Will you please give me your real name. Yes. I immediatly placed Paper and Pencil on the Table in about five seconds The sound of writing commenced upon lighting the candle The following words were on the Paper in a clear plain hand writing "My name is McBland but some call me Lord Bloat" Will you please write some more? Yes. The candle was Extinguished. The writing commenced and was as follows

"I will write you some names"

several names followed. Mr Smith, Mr Hourace + others upon the Question being put do you know any of my relations. Ans Yes. Mrs Wilmer Benson your great grandmother of the 4th sphere The spirit then intimated by raps it was time to leave I said will you please write good night. Yes. Before I could place the Paper on the Table, "Good night" was commenced and scratched with a Pen on the table.

The writing as I before observed was done in

The dark but the paper was placed ^ on the opposite side of the table to the medium and written upon while in that position The writing was done in a very rapid manner and I feel certain that nothing short of a disembodied spirit could have done what is here imperfectly discribed without detection.

There is one feature I forgot to mention namely That by request the spirit Slid along the carpet to the door previous to making its exit.

Tuesday Jany 18th The spirit that purported to be that of McBland did not visit me this evening as he had promised.

Tuesday Feby 1st

If any additional testimony were required to confirm my belief the spiritual Phenomena this day has furnished it

This morning at 7 am ascertained by raps that the spirit then communicating would give me his Autograph and write it himself while we were at Breakfast without the presence of the medium

I placed pen Ink and paper on the table closed and fastened both the doors leading into the room in five minutes reentered the room and found written in a Bold Hand – Lord Baron – I know to a certainty that no one could possibly enter the room the outer door being locked inside the inner door I kept myself waiting the time specified to obtain it

I then requested the spirit to write again in the presence of myself or some one of the family – I was refuse'd the medium chosen Jane tells me immediately I closed the door the Pen left the Ink stand without any visible agency and Lord Baron written very rapidly three times on the Paper The pen then laid itself beside the paper

This evening we have spent very pleasantly without Invisible friends in conversation (they answering by raps) Music on the Guitar which they perform admirably keeping accurate Time always.

They (the spirits) are very fond of vocal music but neither myself or family being much gifted that way I could not respond to their repeated call of sig sing and proposed to teach my English Friend the value of American coin he having on a previous occasion acknowledged his Ignorance of American money

I placed several pieces of coin on the Guitar stating their value, and requested the spirit select the five dollar gold piece and place it near the medium the ¼ dollar on the opposite side 10 cent piece in the middle and so forth I extinguish'd the candle

Immediately the coin was examined and each piece placed as directed I then proposed that the money should be removed – put out the candle heard the money being taken off the Table relit the Candle found it was gone except a Two dollar Bill – I then requested it might be replaced in my Port Monia extinguish'd he light and in less than one minute all the money except one 10c piece was – returned. I then said will you please to take the Two dollar Bill and hide it in some part of the room a good distance from the medium was answer'd by one rap – Yes – darkened the room remarking when you have his it rap on the Guitar in a few seconds the signal was given – The candle relit we commenced our search without success I enquired will you tell me alphabetically were to find the note was answer'd no search'd again but to no purpose. I then requested the spirit to direct me by writing were to find it, was answer'd Yes- paper and pencil placed on the desk the room made dark myself and medium standing together away from the Paper we heard the Pencil passing rapidly over the paper and found written look around the stove. We did so, and found the Note crushed up under the edge of the carpet some 12 feet from were the medium was sitting at my request it was hid Twice again and on both occasions we had to appeal to our spirit friend before we could find its whereabouts The directions were thus Looke on the Beaurio we found it in the Top draw it was a little open at the time Looke in the desk – It was also there

The most remarkable circumstance remains to be told it will be observed that in the early part of the evening a 10 cent piece was retained by my Invisible friend – I requested it might returned and desired him to mention the piece in writing were he had hid it. The writing commenced

rapidly as before and was as follows-

“You had better let me have the Dime”

I said I have no objection to you keeping the Dime if you will tell me for what purpose you want it. was answerd by one rap – Yes –

Instantly was written “I will keep this Dime and when you are in the spirit world I will show it you.” I remarked I should like to scratch my initials and date on the Dime before you take it away. One rap – yes. Immediately it was placed on the Table – I took it up and scratched with the scissors on the Woman side WB-1853- on the reverse Feby 1st cleaned it and replaced it on the Desk I heard it taken up and said you will take care of it and I hope at some future time you will show it to us in the presence of Witnesses – one rap – Yes –

Will you repeat these experiments before witnesses – Yes – will you tell me when I may expect you again – Yes – Tomorrow night was written.

These spirit writings I retain for the Inspection of those who may feel interested in this new Philosophy all the above writings were done without the aid of the medium in some cases she was in the next room.

My spirit friend then rap’d “good night” giving a rap for each letter thus ended yesterdays experience which I have faithfully recorded.

W B Benson.

Friday Feby 4th 1853

This evening at 7 PM our spirit friends true to their appointment were present and gave us some excellent music on the Guitar Mr Abbot was present and gave us some Vocal music the spirits playing an accompaniment in correct time

We had a very interesting time with our Invisible friends on one occasion Mr A tied Janes Hands The music continued but it was not so good as when her hands are free and the spirits spelled by alphabet "untie Janes Hands" which was done this is remarkable from the fact that the medium does not touch the Guitar with her hands during the time the spirits are playing.

Mr Abbot sent a spirit to his Sister in [[illegible]] (Mrs Miers) she having a sore thumb (called a Felon) and asked Baron if he could recommend something that would do it good Ans- Yes - In a few minutes the spirit returned and gave the following by alphabet "soak the Thumb in warm water for half an hour 3 times a day till cured"

The well known raps of good night to each one was given and monday or Tuesday appointed for another meeting.

February 6th 1853

Ascertained by raps that a spirit purporting to be McBland was present and that he would accept a 10 cent piece as a souvenir of our acquaintance and that he would keep it and show it to me after I should leave the Body and meet him in the spirit world – I accordingly scratched on a 10 cent piece W B Feby 6th 1853 and placed it on the Desk and was told to return in 2 minutes – it would disappear and that Jane might see it go myself and Wife in the same room were watching the clock Jane a short distance from the Desk –

Just before the expiration of the Two minutes Jane called out “It is gone”

I then requested that it might be thrown on the carpet in the middle of the floor was ans- Yes At a time when acceptable to see it we placed it on the floor It is now 12 ½ o'clock I have had it in my possession ½ an hour up to the present time and [[illegible]] note the time of its second disappearance.

I retained possession of the Dime till 7 PM at that hour Lord Baron – mcbland + Cornwallas were present they performed on the Guitar in their usual good style – I returned the Dime to my spirit friend McB;and, and also gave one to Cornwallas after scratching on one side WB Feby 6th 1853 Our visitors left about 9 PM after writing their names in this Book with pen and Ink My Wife feeling very sick I forgot to make an appointment for our next meeting.

Saturday Feby 12th 1853

This evening at 7 PM We had the satisfaction of learning by raps that our spirit friends were present and that they would perform on the Guitar

We gladly welcomed them not having received any communications from them since last Sunday

They gave us some very good music on the Guitar and we fell much pleasure in listening to their performance after playing Two Hours they bid us good night by sounding the strings in their usual manner one sound for each letter in – Good night – Upon the question being put can you send a musical Female friend was answerd by one rap – Yes – In a few seconds the strings of the Guitar were lightly struck and upon enquiring ascertained It was the spirit of a Female that was playing – that it was her first appearance – and that she would give us a number of Tunes I requested as my Wife was sick our invisible friend would please to withdraw with us to the next room was answerd – Yes –

The Guitar placed on the Table with the neck on the chair the candle extinguished the music instantly commenced the touch was excellent the music charming. I beg'd the name of my new acquaintance and received the following particulars by alphabet

My name is

“Rosy Jane Williams”

of Main St Birmingham England

I died 12 months ago – Was unmarried

& 20 years of age would not return

to live again on the Earth (could I do so)

If I possessed all that Heart could wish

I am very happy and reside in the sixth

sphere.” I will visit you Tomorrow at 12

oclock with this assurance I reluctantly

bade my spirit friend good night. Miss Rosy promised to bring a Female Friend
[[Obscured by large ink spill]]

Sunday Feby 13th 1853

This morning precisely at 12 oclock ascertained by raps that Miss Rosy Jane Williams and Wifes mother were present. In answer to questions received the following answers – Your House is the first wherein I have been able to communicate with its residents I will be with you at 6 oclock and play on the Guitar I understood the science of music when in the Body but cannot play so well now as then upon the Question do you know what the spirits have done in my presence Ans-No- shall I read you my experience from my Journal Ans-yes. I did so – my spirit friend rap’d it was enough – I then requested the favor of her Autograph and was promised it soon in her own hand writing The wind blowing very strong at this time I was obliged to discontinue my chat not being able correctly to hear the raps or to distinguish them from the noise caused by the blowing of the wind.

At 4 ½ PM the wind ceased and my little Daughter Jane took her seat at the Desk and asked if any spirits were present to manifest it by rapping – raps in quick succession- I wish to communicate ascertained – The alphabet was – called over the result “Please Notice the paper on the Table” on going to the Table there lay a letter I received on the previous day from Lewis F Crigler on the outside was written in a neat lady like hand writing

[[inside a decorative box]] in another place was written [[inside a decorative box]]

Rosy Jane Williams
1853
Age 20

My name is
1853
Rosy Jane Williams
Age 20

The name was written and surrounded with foliage similar to the copy above and underneath was written the

following (Verbatim)

please excuse my writing for I cannot write so good after I leave the body on another piece of paper were written the same name in four places - It will be observed that Miss Rosy was not long in gratifying us with the Autograph and at a time when we had not expected it not having placed any paper or Pencil for the purpose as on other occasions for my spirit friends

I made a further request that Miss Williams will write her name in this Book and as much of her History as she may please.

I reserve this space for the purpose.

[[a thick line across the page]]

Jane Williams
1853
aged 20
Rosy Jane Williams

[[other illegible/messy handwriting]]

[[a thick line across the page]]

Miss W will visit us at 6oclock this evening and at 7 clock my old friends Lord Baron McBaron Cornwallas have promised me their company.

This evening we spent very pleasantly our spirit friends were all present and played us a variety of Tunes- there is an individuality in their touch on the Instrument easily distinguished but Miss RJW I think superior in some of her Tunes

The (Flagocet Notes) Harmonicks were played in excellent style also the song "Good night" was charming. After the spirits had closed their musical Entertainment my Wife's Mother wrote with Pencil A Dime please.

I had previously promised a keep sake of anything I possess'd I gave the old lady a Dime having marked it with AEB-WBB Feby 13th 1853 [[a small diagram of a

dime with a hole in the upper right side]] there was a hole in in the Dime I am thus particular that at some future tie I may wish them to be Exhibited

(AEB is Anna E Benson, my second wife Elizabeth. WBB is her first husband.)

when a reference to the Book will easily Identify the money. Miss Williams wrote 5 cents please I marked that also WB and gave it Miss W the Ladies took up the money and rap'd with it on Guitar. Upon my putting the Question What will you do with the Money? Was answerd in writing I will keep it will you show it to me in the spirit world? One rap yes. I made a proposition to Miss W that if she desired to communicate to any of her friends and would write the [[obstacle?]] I would forward it to its destination This I left to her better judgment to do as she pleased in the matter.

Our spirit friends then let promising to be with us tomorrow night

Monday Feby 14th

This morning ascertained that Mrs Elizabeth Fox (my wife's mother) was present and that she had the dime presented to her last night. My Wife said I should like to see the dime Ans- yes - when we all left the room (except my Wife who was sick and unable to leave her bed) on my return I found the dime and the five cent piece I had given on the previous evening laying on the Desk. I placed the money on the Beuro so that my Wife should see when it was taken away. The money was taken away so quietly that she could not tell when it disappeared. No one had been in the room up to the time that I missed the money but myself

Upon enquiry Mrs fox and Mis Rosy told me they had the money.

This evening at 7 PM my spirit friends were with us played as usual on the Guitar and I was informed by Rosy Jane Williams that her Father and Mother were still living that she had three Brothers ad that her Twin sister was with her in the
over-

spirit world, that she died the day after herself and that there was a difference of one hour in the time of their birth. I ask if her sister was musical – yes – and requested that she would pay us a visit tomorrow evening was answer'd in the affirmative

Tuesday Feby 15th

I have neglected to write since monday to day is Friday I will therefore condense my narative and bring it up to to night – on Tuesday Miss Rosy informed us that her sister was present and my mother in law Music on the Guitar as usual - Miss Rosy's sister wrote her name with her own hand Rody Williams Age 20. During the week I have received several Autograph in their own hand which is a neat and lady like hand writing superior to that generally written by females see specimen at the end of the Book [[a scribbled shape]] Music as on other occasions They informed me that they visited other planets also the sun and the moon that they were Inhabited and with beings on higher order of Itelect than on our Earth

Saturday Feby 19th

This evening to the astonishment of my Wife she observed laying on the carpet a silver Pencil & case close to her hair while thinking how it came there the spirits rapd I wish to communicate by alphabet the alphabet being called over the following was given "I have made you a Present of the Pencil" upon the question being put were did you obtain it the answer was written by the spirit as follows

"I got it from my home on the Earth" Signed E.F. I asked from you former residence in England? Yes. I would here remark that my Wifes mother promised to maker her a present a few days ago and the Pencil was given in fulfillment of that promise.

Another circumstance occurred this week namely the sudden appearance of a neat emboss'd Envelope enclosing a small piece of Paper on which was written Rosy Jane Williams 1853 Aged 20, lived in Birmingham near London also on the Envelope Rosy Jane Williams This was placed on the Bed when my Wife was laying there sick

This as in the previous case was given in fulfillment of a promise and in return for the trifle received from us. Miss Rosy Williams has also promised to bring us a present. what it will be time alone can reveal

I would here add that my Wife has put test questions to the spirit that purports to be her Mother about family matters all of which has been answerd correctly and leaves no doubt as to her Identity I write this as a correct but very brief outline of what has transpired during the week

Feb 20th This evening a spirit purporting to be my Wifes Brother visited us and gave his name Connelly I put several list questions to him which he could not answer and altho a good writer and evidently an Educated spirit when requested to answer the list questions in writing he done so in a very unintelligible manner I spent more than two hours in testing my Invisible visitor and proved him to be untruthful in every particular Upon the Question being put what was your trade profession or calling I could not read the answer I [[demonstrated/]] with him on his writing such an unintelligible scrawl. He then wrote

'I am sorry that I am called away but I will not leave till I have satisfied you both' this was written clear and very distinct I said tell me the Parish in which you resided when my wife left England answers for more than 6 times Incorect and unintelligable I said you are a good penman and resorting to stratagem to catch out of our minds an answer before you will write corectly.

My Wife named the Parish It was then Instantly written correctly and admirabl.

I asked again for the Trade or Business Tin- Iron - Wood were written and ultimately Bricklayer. This was enough + more than Enough. I then desired the spirit to leave immediately and never to enter my House any more It is now about Two months since I have been annoyed by lying spirits and I would here remark that the presence of this spirit produced a very unpleasant sensation and I repeat that no sympathy of sentiment or feeling existed between us and my former -

experience justifies me in the conclusion that when that is the case the best method is to hold no communication with them, but order them off immediately, and stop them instantly in their manifestations. They will leave when resisted without giving further annoyance or trouble.

a spirit purporting to be Mary May stated she was present I did not converse much with her she wrote her name and rap'd her age as 16 and four months resident in the spirit world said by raps that she could perform on musical Instruments I did not ask her abilities being engaged with the spirit above alluded too.

Thursday April 7th 1853

Returned at 1 PM from [[illegible]] my Wife sick with [[illegible]] and not serving family well at PM had the pleasure of having Ms Rosy Jane Williams commence her presence by rapping she wrote I am glad to [[illegible]] return to your happy home once again I requested her to play me a few tunes on the guitar which was granted ascertaining that no other spirit was present with Ms Williams I wished her to invite my old friends Lord Baron Lord Byron McBland Mrs Fox and Miss Williams sister Rody was answerd in the affirmative upon putting the question how long will it take you to bring them here answer 10 seconds -

In 12 seconds raps commenced and the announcement made that they were present upon expressing my thanks and the pleasure I felt in their society I requested them all to play on the Guitar which was done in very excellent style & accurately I then requested the spirits to dance [[several illegible words]] hear their footsteps a waltz was played and [[several illegible words]]

distinctly the moving as if the feet in correct time with the music I wished them to dance near me so that I could distinguish from sound the number dancing The guitar was then played softly and we heard some three to four of the spirits dancing the music ceased and the dancing commenced to our great pleasure and satisfaction I then wished them to write their names in Pencil on a [[illegible]] writing Paper [[illegible]] was also open and at the close they play on the piano [[illegible]] Good night the girls singing one spirit wrote in Pencil Good night to all RJW they left promising to be with us tomorrow evening

Monday May 2nd 1853

Yesterday Evening I returned home from a visit to St. Louis This evening my invisible spirit friends were present ready to greet my return

Miss Risy Williams of Birmigham was the first to announce her presence to whom I expreseed a wish that she would invite my particular friends – Lord Baron, Lord Byron, McBland (my Wife's mother) Mrs Fox, Miss Rody Williams twin sister to Miss Rosy Jane Williams and agreed to meet at 7 PM

At that hour we upwind to the front room our friends were present and performed for Two hours their soul stiring music on the Guitar my Daughters singing when they requested them to do so – I ascertained Jane had been taught Two Tunes during my weeks absence

Tuesday May 3rd

Darkened the room as usual at 7 PM ascertained my spirit friends were in attendance their manifestations commenced by each playing alternatily on the Guitar at my request they danced a Quadrill and to our astonishment their step was as loud and distinct as could be produced by a moderate sized person without shoes and at every step kept exact time with the music

The Dancing and music continued for nearly two hours

I proposed that my Daughter Elizabeth should dance with them they immediatly accepted her and the danced at intervals for about an hour

They left at 9 PM after wishing us good night promised to visit us again Tomorrow Evening at 7 PM.

Wednesday May 4th

This evening at 7 PM my Friends announced their presence by rapping The room darkened & the Guitar placed on the Table when Tunes were played by the undernamed spirits

Lord Baron

Lord Byron

McBland

Mrs E Fox

Miss Rosy Jane Williams

Miss Rody Williams

Elizabeth was soon called upon to join in a Dance the footsteps of the spirits were quite as loud and distinct as those of Elizabeth after dancing for about ½ hour Jane was requested to play for the spirits and the first Bar of Four Tines were played which they wished her to perform while they danced. Jane did so and we all felt much gratified at the great accuracy of their step The medium played other Tunes they continued to Dance until 9 PM when the well known rap of good night finished the manifestations

At 7 PM Tomorrow Evening they visit us again

Thursday May 5 1853

at 7 PM The mind or spirit of RJW announced her presence – I had retired to bed a few minutes before with a severe pain my head Miss R called for Pencil and Paper upon it being placed on the Table The following words were written “Mr Benson I think I had better not play this Evening it might increase your pain We will all be here Tomorrow Eg at 7 PM I acquiesced and asked were any other spirit friends there Ans in Philadelphia I am going there to join them Good night RJW.

Friday May 6th

at 7 PM The Spirits wrote their names with a Gold Pencil that I handed them for the purpose each spirit gave a loud rap with the Pencil on the Table after writing his or her name each spirit wrote Present to their names thus Lord Baron presently after playing on the Guitar and dancing for about ½ hour They complained of the Guitar being out of Tune and said they did not wish to play any more we then commenced a conversation in reference to their spirit home some were answered by writing others by loud raps with the Pencil The rapping and writing being close to my hands on the Table I asked my Invisible friend to touch me with her finger she very reluctantly and cautiously consented by placing the Tip of her finger on the end of mine It effected me like a slight Electric shock I felt a chilly coldness run through my system I soon recovered and requested a repetition of the touch which was given again with much caution this was repeated many times during her stay until the touch became actually pleasing and proved beyond a doubt the Tangibility of spirit organization at 9 PM my spirit friend gave the Tips of her fingers to shake hands and we parted after bidding each other good night

Saturday May 7th

At 7 this evening a spirit Purporting to be that of Miss Rosy Jane Williams announced her presence by rapping my Wife myself and Jane the medium took our seats at the Table I commenced our Interview by expressing our thanks at the manifestations of the previous evening and hoped that the same privilege of allowing us to take her by the hand would be granted us this evening and was answer'd in the affirmative after a few preliminary questions being asked and answered by rapping on the Table with a Pencil by request her hand was placed in my own, then in my Wifes, my Wifes tings were taken off her fingers and placed on mine I asked the spirit to allow me to place them on her fingers

her hand was held out and I placed Four rings on the Fore fingers Miss Rosy then placed her hand in my Wifes rubbing the rings on the Palm of Mrs B hands

The rings were then taken off and placed on my own and Wifes fingers alternately sometimes the rings placed in our hands and our hands shut up then opened and taken out again We were frequently patted on our face and hands, upon the question being asked will U permit us to feel the size of your wrist and Arm Ans Yes Her Hand was placed in our own and passed from the wrist to the elbow The arm was well proportioned small at the wrist gradually swelling to the elbow, felt remarkably soft and pleasant to the touch of firm substance possessing a peculiarity that I cannot describe

For Two Hours These and similar manifestations were given to our great gratification and Instruction during the Evg my Wifes Curl Papers were taken out, and given into my hands – many other pleasant little feats were performed showing out spirit friends to be of a quick and lively Temperament on one occasion my Wifes hands were placed in mine on another Miss W placed both her hands I mine she frequently pinched our fingers and drew our arms across the table that we might Judge of her strength – She informed us her weight was about 9lbs Miss Rosy left at 9 PM and promised to bring my Wifes Mother with her Tomorrow Evening at 6 oclock

Sunday May 9th

This Evening at 20 min to 6 PM ascertained that Rosy Jane Williams were present and that Mrs E Fox would be here at 6 The room darkened and 6 o'clock arrived myself Wife and Family took our seats immediately their presence was announced by rapping very loud on the Table – Upon enquiring ascertained that Two spirit were present as before stated – they began their manifestations by rapping simultaneously a variety of Tunes on The Table

Then locked hands with myself and Wife at the same time proving the fact that Two spirits were actually present My Wifes mother took a Bracelet from my Wifes arm by request using both hands to unclasp it Rings were taken off and put on our fingers many times a comb was taken from my Wifes Head and placed in my Hair and passing in several times throughout it in the act of combing we were permitted to feel their hands and arms The hands of Mrs F my mother in Law was longer than those of Miss Williams her arm nearly the same size My Daughters Jane, Harriett, Matilda & Elizabeth were presented to the spirits they passed their hands over theirs. Took off the girls rings and placed them on their fingers again – I put my Wifes Rings on Rosys fingers she placed on mine so also did Mrs F. They patted us on the Head and cheeks- their touch feels slightly warm and very soft and pleasant they appear to have greater flexibility than falls to the lot of us mortals I tried my skill against theirs in producing rapid sounds on the Table but was excell'd in quickness of rap's by the Invisible our meeting was Interesting and Instructive and the promise given to us of very soon seeing them The conditions pointed out and a recommendation to cultivate a spirit of Harmony not only among ourselves but also the Human [[illegible]] and I feel the

Time will soon com arrive when more Wonderful manifestations will be given – we are advancing and begin to see through the mist that has hitherto clouded up from our view Mans immortal Destiny after shaking hands we parted to meet again at 7 tomorrow Evening.

Monday May 10th 1853

Business this evening prevented our meeting until 7 ½ as soon as we has taken our seats Miss Rosy announced her presence by rapping on the Table she informed us Mrs E Fox has been here and left having an appointment elsewhere – We bid her good evening and asked her to shake hands with us – directly her hand was placed in mine then in my Wifes The Girls next, from the Eldest to the youngest they all talked to her she answering Yes or No by patting them on the hand, or slightly pinching them she took off their tings and put them on again He He

The Information gained this evening was that there was a natural Body and a spiritual Body and that the mind or spirit enter'd the spiritual Body immediately after leaving the natural body and within the space of six seconds and that this spiritual Body emanated from the spirit on seperation from the natural Body leaving a striking resemblance to the mortal Body without deformity – altho it might previously have Existed in the Earthly organization – I asked will you please to breath on my hand – Yes – The Breath was warm and cold I held the hand of the spirit some Three or Four minutes at a time and perceived that warmth from my hand increased the warmth

Of my spirit friends I asked to be permitted to feel the elbow which was granted the Elbow was well defined The arm gradually swelling from the wrist – Fingers moderately long and tapering – finger nails of fine oval form and smooth like plastic Ivory

I asked miss R to write a certain sentence my hand was grasped and the pencil guided to form the requested words – many other things were done similar to those recorded last evening – my spirit Friend gave me the usual – but to us unwelcome signal of her wish to leave – We reluctantly shook hands and bade her good night – and even informed she would not be with us again till Wednesday Evening next

Wednesday May 12th 1853

Darkened the room at PM and waited till past 8 o'clock before we received any indication that our Invisible friends were present – light rapping announced that a spirit was with us – Upon the question will you favor us with any manifestation tonight was ans No – have you any reason for refusing – Yes – were you here during the day – yes – do you know what transpired? Yes. I regret the circumstance very much – I know your counsel has been disregarded, and the agreement active in my family and yourself violated – by indulging in wrangling and Discord.

It perhaps will be well to remark that spirits teach the necessity of Families being in serenity and perfect concord avoiding dissention wrangling and all its evil and consequences. And that only Those who strive to live to promote Peace, Love & Harmony will ever receive the higher manifestations, I hope last night's lesson will not be

disregarded after bidding the spirits good night which was answered by rapping the assurance was given that further Manifestations would be granted when we were prepared to receive them.

Thursday May 13th 1853

This evening a few minutes before 7 PM we took our seats loud raps informed us of spiritual presence The manifestations commenced with rapping Tunes on the Table in most admirable style; and with surprising correctness "Old Uncle Ned" and "Buy a Broom" were among the Tunes – then followed several Quicksteps and Waltz's a call was made for the girls to sing to the rapped Tune of "Old Uncle Ned" which was complied with Our spirit Friend then shook hands with us and asked questions by rapping independent of the medium The girls were also privileged with clasping Hands with our Invisible friend.

We were Exhorted to cultivate a spirit of Love & Harmony with each other – That spirits might be able to give us greater + higher manifestations

Upon the Question being put will you allow any of my friends to be present at the convincing manifestations was answered with a loud – NO

My Wife and myself held the hands of our spirit Friend Miss RJW for several minutes at a time – Upon my remarking you possess a tangible organization I feel your hands they feel as much a substance as my own – If I were to light a candle could I see you or the hand that I now feel in my own ans No. I asked the Question again ans No. We shook hands with RJW and offered to meet Tomorrow evening at 7 PM.

Friday May 14th 1853

True to appointment my Invisible friend RJW was in attendance and rapped several times on the Table very cleverly. We shook hands, and I asked her if she would accept a Gold Ring as a keep sake In answer two or three feeble raps. I said will you please to write an answer whether you will, or not, accept our little gift and Yes— The following ans was written [illegible letters] the Table around which we were sitting The paper being placed near my hands—

Mr. Benson I thank you very kindly
But it will be of no service to me

R.J.W.

Then questions were proposed and answer'd by patting myself and my wife on our hands soon after & we were informed Miss Rosy had other appointments to fulfill and we shook hands bade her good night she promising to be with us at 7 ½ Tomorrow night

Saturday May 15th 1853

At 7 ½ PM The room was prepared and RJW gave the signal of her presence but declined giving any manifestations in consequence of the wrangling that had taken place in the family every person left the room except myself and the medium. The spirit took my hand and [several indecipherable letters] every question I proposed was answered by a slight pressure I was [2 words crossed out] desired to inform my family that if concord prevailed Tomorrow we would be visited at 7 ½ PM

And that all those who indulged in Wrangling and promoting discord could not be privileged with holding converse with Spirits, and In fact that their visits would cease altogether.

Sunday May 15th 1853

My Invisible Spirit Friend has just left 9 o'clock This evening's Intercourse has been the most astounding Miss Rosy Manifested her presence as soon as we had taken our seats at 7 P.M. by rapping very loud on the Table several Tunes I propose to bring the Guitter and hold it that she might play on it. The Body resting on the Table the Neck in my hands and Yes Three Tunes were played in that position. The Girles Sang "The Coronation Song" The Harpers Song "Twere Vain to tell Thee" "I have something sweet to tell thee" &c &c The spirit rapping an accompanymnt most admirably We then proposed to shake hands with our supernatural visitor and Yes by one rap. My Wifes, My own, Matildas Elizabeth's Janes & Willies hands were taken in succession as on former occasions they were caress'd patted on the cheek's &c &c

The most astonishing remains to be told: Observing that the outward organization bore an exact resemblance to the Natural Body, I was led to ask have you a Pulse. Ansd Yes. Will you let me feel it? Yes. & to my astonishment I felt the pulsation in the wrist as distinctly as in my own. The Pulsation very regular, and a little slower than in the Natural Body

I then ask the favor of touching her Drapery promising that I would not grasp it. Ansd- Yes. Immediately was placed in my hand what felt like soft Muslin I was surprised and it was placed in my hands several times to my own and Wifes entire Satisfaction -I also felt the pulse beating in both of the Spirits wrists upon my remarking you are very strong, a piece of Ribbon was placed in my hand which I held when several vigorous efforts were made to pull it from me I had to exert all my strength to retain it. The corner of the table Cloth was then tied with the Ribbon and I opened the door for the spirits Exit we found Jane the Medium tied

to the Table cloth. Janes, "Record Books" of School Lessons" was taken out of her pocket and given to me, with a desire to light the Candle. The book was taken out without the Medium's knowledge, I requested it might be replaced in the pocket, It was done directly

The Spirit left at 9 PM promising to be with us Tomorrow Evening at 7 PM

Monday May 16th

Discord and wrangling today. Remembering that the advice of our Invisible friend had been disregarded I still hoped to receive some manifestations and in company with the medium took our seats after darkening the room; & upon enquiring if the Spirit of RJW was present a slight rap in the affirmative, and received in answer to Enquiring, that no manifestations would be given.

I entreated for my family to be admitted which was ultimately granted, nothing done but rapping a Time on the Table shaking hands and answering a few Questions I proposed for Mr De De Haven also Harrisson Thompson to be permitted to witness the manifestations we have been privileged to receive—Two loud raps in the Negative to each name

I then proposed Luther C Challis observing that I thought his desire to be present, arose from an honest wish to investigate for himself, the Truth's of the Spiritual Philosophy and that he would form his own opinion independent of the influence of others. One Rap—Yes— Tomorrow Evening R.J.W. will be here. Mr Challis is to be Invited to attend

Tuesday May 17th 1853

This evening at 7 P.M. Mr Luther C. Challis, came to my house for the purpose of Witnessing some spirit manifestations Not having heard the first sound produced before by spirit agency.

Jane took her seat at the Desk the raps commenced Questions were asked and answered, The Jenny Lind Table Stand was moved a short distance by request of Mr C several Tunes were rapped on the Stand previous to doing so The following request was made by—alphabet "Put a shawl over the Table." A promise was given to Mr C that he would soon have the privilege of Witnessing the higher Manifestations of Spirit Power and Presence.

Not having made arrangement for another meeting when Mr C left I enquired of the Spirit of RJW when we might expect her again Ansr Tomorrow Night at 7 ½ oclock

Wednesday May 18th 1853

Darkened the room as usual at 7 ½ took our seats Miss Rosy Jane W was present she rapped some very pretty tunes on the Table shook hands with us several times, I felt the pulsation in her wrist and desired to feel her Drapery was refused it being time to leave to enable her to fill another appointment one new feature in this evenings experiences was the rapping on the Table with a small Hammer that I had been using; at my request RJW rapped on the Bedstead & on the Carpet with the Hammer then returned to the

Table and gave it to my Wife several other little feats were done that I have omitted for the sake of brevity upon leaving Miss W promised to meet Mr Chaliss at 7 PM and give Manifestations till 8 P.M. and to myself and family from 8 till 9 PM. at 14 to 9 The Good Night rap was given we shook hands with our invisible friend bade her good night thanking her for her disinterested condensation and punctuality in always fulfilling her engagements with us and a hope the Time was not far distant when we shall hear her speak ansr by raps "I don't know"

Thursday May 19th 1853

We had some Interesting manifestations Music on the Guitar played with Drum Sticks also with the fingers The small hand Bell rung several times Tunes rapped out on the Table which made a very pretty accompaniment to the Girls singing This evening RJW informed us her Drapery was of a different Texture I felt it and to the touch like raw Silk, She informed us that her drapery contained no needle work but was worn in a similar manner to the Drapery seen on Statuary. Mr Challis informed me by note that Business engagements prevented his attendance this evening. My Wife complained of severe pain in her head and enquired of Miss Williams if she could cure her. Ansr Yes. The medium keeping her seat. The spirit approached to the opposite End of the Table were my Wife was sitting placed her hands on Mrs. B. head for 5 minutes or more and after making several upward passes the pain ceased we thanked our Spirit visitor shook hands and bade her good night till 7 ½
Tomorrow Evg

Wednesday May 25th 1853

This evening at 7 ½ My Spirit friend was present and as on former occasions gave us Music & Dancing I have omitted recording several evening Entertainment and Instructions being of a similar character to those already enumerated.

I shall cease to write until some New feature is given us of the Spirit Presence and Power of which we are promised

Sunday May 29 1853

This evening darkened the room as usual at 7 ½ PM

Our constant visitor announced her presence by rapping Tunes in her won inimitable style

[a note appears just below this entry]

You have not recorded their manifestations, I suppose they were similar to others

Thursday June

Darkened the room as usual at 7 ½ PM took our seats enquired if our friend was present, a response by rapping Tunes on the Table, Jane the Medium was entranced by RJW, and played on the Guitar, not only the Tunes she was acquainted in a far superior manner to her own unaided ability, but gave us music and Singing Entirely new to us in composition, and in a voice quite different to her own. the style of Playing was that of a proficient in the art In some of her songs she stated Tongue cannot tell, nor Language express the happiness, and joy that I feel in the Spirit home.

A word of advice to her parents and the Glory of the Spirit Land, to which we were hastening were pictured in glowing colors

Mr De Haven called about 8 ½ I asked Spirit purporting to be Rosy Jane Williams If she had any word for my friend Mr D. when Jane, Sang and played an accompaniment—as follows Mr De. Haven, I address you as follows—If you wish to know more of the Spirit Communion, you must attend more to it—Part of Home sweet home was sung and played, also “The Marriner Loves oer the Waters to roam” & “Wait for the Wagon” “My Soul is Dark”, The English National Anthem—“God Save the Queen” and several other pieces all of which she cannot either Sing or play in the natural state—not knowing either the words or the accompaniment. In the early part of the Evening At my urgent request I received a promise that my Spirit friend would speak to us in her own voice I told my friend Mr De, H of my expectations but he was obliged to leave at 10 PM at 10 ½ PM ascertained by raps that our Angel visitor could speak—A dead silence prevailed for about Two minutes

I was instructed to write a letter briefly stating the facts of Spirit Communion. I wrote my letter at the time appointed called Jane into the room and enquired if the letter would suit and was answered by raps in the affirmative and next Monday (Tomorrow) appointed for another Spirit Manifestation

Monday Evg June 1853

This evening we assembled none present but my family altho Two Gentlemen were Invited (Doc Trenkelhand & De Haven) last Friday to attend. We were in hopes to hear again that Angel Voice but were doomed to disappointment. My family are alone to blame The advice previously given vocally was not regarded. I felt much hurt. An unwelcome but satisfactory cause was given why our Spirit friend would not speak to us. At the entreaty of my Wife we had some few Tunes rapped with the Spirit fingers. I tried to get a promise from our Spirit Visitor that she would speak but failed I knew by experience that every promise would be fulfilled

The raps seemed to imply I dont wish to answer in the affirmative or negative. I requested Miss Rosy to write me an answer. Yes—and Received in writing by herself as follows

Tuesday

This evening came to order at 7 ½ Miss Rosy announced her presence and after she (the Spirit) had entranced Jane rapping to call our attention when Jane said you may “Light the Candle if you wish It is now 8 o’clock Jane has just broke a string and is now fixing it she speaks not a word looks placid and is very intent on what she is doing I intend to note every thing that transpires this is the first time we have been permitted to have a light The Guitar is in most Excellent Tune Jane is now playing superbly on the Instrument her touch very clear and rarified A Tin case has been just placed under Janes feet she is beating time most vigorously and accurately Two messages as follows written by Jane—Will you please send to borrow Miss Ellen Keils Guitar this evening and I will take good care of it till Tomorrow Mrg Miss K being out it was not obtained “Could we not borrow one from some one Else. Sent to The Collegiate Institute and obtained one Jane is now instructing her Sister Matilda they are both playing together

The following beautiful lines were addressed to L F Linn (on the occasion of her Birth day by her Deceased Husband Dr Lewis F Linn

Air "The Light of Other days
To Mrs L F Linn

I'm with you at the twilight hour,
When all is hushed and calm
My Influence then around you there is,
A holy, soothing balm,
Repine no more for one who's gone
From this dark Vale of Woe,
You are not left to Mourn alone,
For I am with you now.

And when at silent eve you gaze
On yon bright silvery Star
And sadly dream of days gone bye,
Then loved one I am near.
I'm ever watching by your side,
Preserving you from Ill,
Teaching that stricken head to bow
To its redeemer's will.

I'm with you when the Flowers bloom,
When the leaf falls from the bough
When joy or grief with you prevails
I'm with you then, as now.
And when your lamp of life grows dim,
And your passing hour has come,
Then dearest, I'll be with you still,
To bear your spirit home.

In the presence of Thirty Senators and Others in
Washington City through the Mediumship of
Mr Cranston Souria

Note from transcriber: the following two pages are blank.

Note from transcriber: this page has been turned upside down. The first two lines are written in ink not on the lines, with the words squished together. Most words are indecipherable.

I have tried to [9 indecipherable words]
and find ly [1 indecipherable word]

The rest of the page is written in a different hand in pencil. The writing is large and not on the lines.

Mr B y take some things too hard

good will to all

by and I have been
make

good feeling

each

has other

the
futer and try to never

have to

7 1/
be here at [indecipherable word]

goodnight

RJW

Mrs. Benson's Mother interred the body of Mr. Napender's Medium, at Greenwich, England, on Sunday Evening, May 30, 1850.

"My Dear Child,--how glad am I to see you. Dear Son, you must not stay long here. You have to go and do a work in America. You must not stay long here + God has given you a work to do for you both to become Mediums through the influence of your spirit friends. Dear Child, your sojourn on this earth will not be long;--you will soon come to me. While you are on this earth spread abroad the knowledge of God, that your reward may be in Heaven

Good bye"

Thursday April 27th

This day at 4 PM We were all agreeably surprised at receiving a visit from my deceased Daughter and miss Rosy J Williams It is two months and two days since she left the Form (Body) and we have been very anxious to hear from her and also from those other spirit friends whose Instructions & Musical Performances had afforded us to much pleasure on former occasions Up to the time of Harriett's decease the spirits had been our constant attendants and they forewarned us that her days were numbered on her first sickness. And gave a faithful promise that when the spirit of my child had left its earthly tenement they would bring her with them and I should know to a certainty her identity—But since the night of her death till this afternoon I have not been able to obtain the slightest rap or manifestation

Upon asking the reason of my Invisible friend of her Silence Was answered alphabetically "It was in Consequence of Jane's Nervousness"

This I have no reason to doubt was the true cause of their not being able to communicate,—a very Interesting Conversation ensued between myself—Daughter (Harriett) and Miss Rosy Williams I will only record that of my child which was in substance as follows,—I am very happy and in the third Sphere I have seen Mother who is in the fourth she is also happy—I have been to many Houses with Spirits to give Manifestations upon asking did you suffer pain in dying Not the least The first persons I saw after I left the Body was Miss Rosy, Mothers Mother, then my Dead Body and those in the House I left then for the 4th sphere and then to my own sphere the 3rd, I returned in the morning and saw my Corpse taken into the Church and heard the service chanted Beautifully, from thence I saw it deposited in the "Cemetery", we then left for the spheres—I said Daughter I want you to tell me something about your home by alphabet—Yes—when the following (Verbatim) was given by calling over the alphabet

Father, Mother, Matilda Lizzie Jane Willie

“It is so nice here Father, It is better than this place, everything is so bright in this place.”

It will be remembered that Harriett was feeble minded and could not explain her ideas concisely and the above message is in her usual phrazeology. She said she was dressed in a white Robe—That she did not think she could find her way here by herself—and that Miss Rosy would accompany her here tomorrow at 4 o clock and also on Saturday at 5 PM and that my Spirit Friends would give us a Musical entertainment as soon as Jane could overcome her Nervousness I then requested Miss Rosy to rap me a Tune of the Desk which was done admirably

Friday, April 28th 1854

At 4 PM the medium took her seat at the Desk The rapping commenced RJW and my Daughter announced their presence Harriett gave the following Articles to her Mother Brother and Sisters The Articles being her property when in the Body

Neck Ribbon and Breast Pin to her Mother

Thimble to Elizabeth – Shell Pin Cushion to Jane

Fancy Box to William –Myself her Miniature.

Rosy said it was difficult to communicate due to the Nervousness of the Medium but promised as soon as the circumstances would permit My Old spirit friends would give a Musical Entertainment

The spirits left about 5 PM promising to come again tomorrow Saturday at 5 PM Harriett telling me she would bring her Mother with her.

Saturday April 29 1854

Being engaged at 5 PM Ascertained afterwards that my Spirit visitants must leave they having another engagement to fulfill They promised to come again at 7 PM Sunday Evening to accommodate me as I intend leaving home Monday or Tuesday

Sunday April 30 1854

A few minutes after 7 PM My Spirit friends arrived namely my former Wife- my Daughter Harriett and Miss Rosy I had a pleasant chat with them all and then requested My Daughter to tell me something about the Spirit home by alphabet Ansd Yes (by one rap)

“Father I am so happy here, There is so many people her like what you call Spirits,-- They are all dressed in white, and go about this earth some in one place Father, and some in another. Good night –Father, Mother, sisters & Willie.”

Miss Rosy in the course of conversation told me as follows

It would take her Three seconds to go to the 7th sphere her spirit home—and 20 seconds to travel to her former Residence on the Earth namely Birmingham England

That this mortal Body will never be raised it is of the Earth—Earthly. That the spirit immediately after quitting the Mortal enters the Spiritual Body and that then the resurrection commences—and that this resurrection will never End being Eternal in its upward progression It is a resurrection from the Mortal to the Spiritual Body a Resurrection from weakness to power, from Ignorance to Knowledge Wisdom Purity & Holiness Infinite in progression Eternal in Duration.

That means free agency ever remains—and his progress in the spirit world mainly depends upon his own desires to obtain these blessings &c &c & & & & also That Spirits possess the power of making them selves visible or invisible at pleasure that they can Organize and Disorganize their Spiritual Body at Will that when Disorganized the Spiritual Element that composes their Body surrounds their Spirit &c &c Will be with me at 7 PM Tomorrow Evening

Saturday January 7th 1854**

Came home last evening from Fayette my Spirit Friends welcomed my return and told me that this Evening they would give me a Musical performance on the Guitar

Accordingly at 6 1/2 O'clock prepared the room when the Spirit Purporting to be that of Lord Baron followed by Lord Byron McBland Mrs E Fox Miss Rosy & Rody Williams promptly announced their presence

We were all much delighted by their performance They gave us about 12 New Tunes in all. They each commenced by playing a new piece of their own composition McBland played 3 New Tunes in succession Their performance was Masterly and we were sorry when the well known Signal was given for good night It is Twelve months since our Friends first commenced playing on the Guitar with their fingers many happy Evenings have been spent in their Society They are with us still ever ready to instruct and do us good Yes 12 months have passed many have been the Messages received and appointments made by my unseen friends all of which have been faithfully kept by them

**Note from transcriber: This entry is written on the back of the entry dated Sunday, April 30th 1854 and comes just before the page containing the entry dated Tuesday Evening May 2nd 1854.

Monday May 1st 1854

As of this evening my Spirit visitors announced their presence namely Miss Rosy Jane Williams, Mrs Fauk (my Wife's mother) and my Daughter Harriett.

Harriett gave me the following Message by Alphabet purporting to be sent from my former Wife

"Father Mother says she will not be here tonight she is going to St. Louis Father. Good night Father."

We requested the Spirits to give us a few Tunes on the Guitar, they refused, going to other appointments, and bid us good night before we got thru with our chat, but promised to meet us again for conversation, at 5 AM Tomorrow Morg
PS Harriett promised to shake hands with us as soon as her sister Jane could overcome her Nervous feelings

My Spirit friends promised to visit me at Bell Air in the event of my becoming acquainted with any good Spirituals or others who are desirous to know the truth of the Spiritual Philosophy and will judge of their claims in an impartial and unbiass'd Manner

Tuesday May 2 1854

At 5 AM Miss Rosy Miss Rody Williams Mrs Fox and Harriett I asked Harriett how she was employed and was answered by Alphabet " I do nothing Father" after thanking my Invisible friends for their kind attendance I bid them good bye till we meet again Miss R told me they had not seen my friends Baron Byron and McBland Consequently they were not aware that the Medium was available for Manifestations

over

Tuesday Evening May 2nd 1854

Having been disappointed in leaving home this Morning I desired an Interview with my Spirit Visitants In a few minutes Miss Rosy announced her presence with whom I held the following conversation Did you Know I wished to see you? Ansd Yes Where were you at the time? Anr 12 miles distant Is the vision of Disembodied Spirits better than when in the Body? Ansr Yes. Quest From how great a distance can you see this House Ansr don't know exactly—Tell me as near as you can guess Ansr about 15 Miles If I were at one end of a straight road 15 miles long at how great a distance could you see me about 13 miles--& could recognize you 11 miles distant Spirits can see through the Doors and walls of Buildings when miles distant All Spirits have the same Power of Vision when disembodied altho the organ of sight might have been defective in the Natural Body. Miss R informed me she must leave to join her spirit friends in the spheres and thence proceed to an appointment on the Earth we bade each other good night in the usual manner Miss R promising to visit me at Bell Air and report to the Girls of our welfare during our absence from home previous to leaving RJW rapped me a Tune on the Table by my request.

Transcriber's Note: This entry has no heading with a day or date and appears to begin midway through.

Then it was broken by the most Musical voice I ever heard and the following given in a clear impressive and affectionate manner.

"My Dear friends, Peace, and Harmony be with you." The voice appeared like that of a Female of the Age of 16 or 18. Miss RJW The Spirit that of who informed me she was 20 years of age and her Superior organization (to those in the mortal Body) enables her to speak with an impressive Musical Intonation. I requested to hear again her cheering Salutation again were the same words reiterated, never to be Effaced from our memories.

I beg'd her to favor us with some advice by the following of which we may continue to receive he vocal advice one rap. Yes.—The same Voice in Tones of Kindness said

"My Dear friends—follow my Advice—and Govern your tempers." The same words were repeated again by request. A few other questions were answer'd by raps and our Spirit Visitor left until 7 ½ tomorrow night.

Friday and Saturday Evenings succeeding our Vocal Instruction A Storm of Thunder Lightning & rain prevented us receiving further vocal Instruction The dense & unsettled atmosphere prevented ur Spirit friend from speaking Jane was Spiritually Magnetized played and Sung in the male and female voice as on former occasions upon the Expression of our regret that she had not spoken and enquiring The medium said as follows

"Miss Rosy says it is in consequence of the weather that she cannot speak"
We were then informed by Miss R That a pre engagement would prevented her from being with us at 7 ½ PM but that at 10 AM she would be here at which time

Transcriber's Note: The other side of this sheet is blank as are the next 10 pages
Transcriber's Note: On the back of the 11th page, the following is written (in pencil):

Ms Rosheer please send me
½ lb of Concentrated Sulp Ether
½ Gallon of ~~your purest & S~~

Transcriber's Note: Three blank pages follow.

On the back of the 4th page there is large, faint, writing in pencil, written on a diagonal.

The writing is addressed to Mr. Benson at the top and at the bottom says: good night
RJW

Transcriber's Note: At the top of the 5th page in pencil and written on the lines in normal handwriting is:

Mr Benson I thought I would hurt your feelings if I told you that I would not speak to night

Transcriber's Note: The bottom half of the page contains large diagonal handwriting that seems to reflect what is written at the top of the page.

Transcriber's Note: This page contains both neat handwriting in ink and larger, often illegible writing in pencil. The writing in ink begins at the top of the page and in the middle, as follows:

W. B.B. & R.J.W.

Mr W. B Benson

W.B. Benson

W. B. Benson

Boonville
/llo /

Miss Rosie Jane Williams

Birmingham England

Aged 20 years & no month

Transcriber's Note: The large pencil writing is diagonal across the page. Much is not legible, but one section mentions "good feeling towards each other".

Transcriber's Note: The front side of the next page is blank. On the back side the following is written in pencil:

every week we peruse your paper with Increasing pleasure every week it contains some memorable Gem of Truth ~~many times— which like an echo~~ calculated to lead the Spirit upward and onward to its eternal and Glorious Destiny

I have often been struck with the beautiful harmony that exists in the teaching of Spirits at my own house, with the teachings of other Spirits at other places

~~Your Paper every week confirms~~
and I cannot refrain from expressing the great pleasure I feel at the onward march of our Cause

It appears to me everything has been done ~~to crush~~ by the opponents of the new Theology to crucify it ~~The wise and learned have~~ [indecipherable crossed out word] ~~by beautiful arguments~~ Pulpit eloquence yet all the mighty artillery of human wisdom is inadequate to know to be anything else than what it really is—namely The Communion of Spirits ~~I would recommend to its opponents to turn aside~~
as to shake hands with them
~~prejudice~~ Myself and family have so far progressed ~~that we enjoy the pressure~~
~~nearly every~~ [crossed out indecipherable word] ~~therefore know~~
~~of shaking hands with them~~ and ~~know to a certainty~~ that they are spirits possessing a ~~Spiritual Body of similar form to their earthly~~ [indecipherable crossed out word]

I will relate ~~some~~ briefly some facts to elucidate my assertion of the reality and [indecipherable word] of the spiritual organization On Friday evening May the 6th Myself Wife & Family took our seats as usual at 7 PM. I placed a small Gold Pencil and Paper on the Table saying that I had purchased the Pencil for their use and [8 indecipherable crossed out words] requested the spirits then present to record their names and inform me if it suited them I will here remark that the spirits always [indecipherable crossed out word] will [indecipherable crossed out word] with their own hands and not through the Medium One rap was given then a name written another rap with the Pencil and another name and so on till I had obtained Six Autographs

Transcriber's Note: An indecipherable word is written vertically across 5 lines of the last paragraph. The following three pages are blank.

Transcriber's Note: This page has large writing in pencil spread diagonally across the page. Some words are not decipherable due to poorly formed letters.

Mr. Benson

I thought I [indecipherable word]

not I would not speak tonight [this line is underlined with a wavy pattern]

[indecipherable word]

until

[3 indecipherable words]

good feelings

are

I will be here

Tomorrow night 7+

good night

RJW

Transcriber's Note: The following is written in pencil in Wilmer Benson's typical handwriting. It appears to be a transcription of what RJW wrote.

Mr Benson I thought it would hurt your feelings if I told you that I would not speak to night

Transcriber's Note: On the bottom half of the page there is large handwriting with poorly formed letter written diagonally across the page.

Mr Benson I thought I would hurt your

feeling I would not speak

[indecipherable word]

But [2 indecipherable words]

W.B.B & R.J.W

Mr W.B Benson

W.B. Benson

W. B. Benson

Booneville
(Mo)

Miss Rosa Jane Williams
Birmingham, England
Aged 20 years & one month

Transcriber's Note: The above is written in ink on the lines in Wilmer Benson's typical handwriting. In large writing, in pencil, with poorly formed letters written diagonally across the page are the following phrases:

No [2 indecipherable words, possibly "speak tonight"]

I could [indecipherable word] a [2 indecipherable words]

you would feel [indecipherable word]

I [2 indecipherable words possibly "will shortly"]

[indecipherable word] if you are in good feelings towards each other

[indecipherable word] here tomorrow and [indecipherable word, possibly "speaking"]

RJM

good night

The names were Lord Baron Lord Byron McBland Mrs E Fox Rosy Jane Williams Rody Williams Music was then Played most admirably on the Guitar ~~most admirably~~ There is an individuality in their touch so that the performance of one is easily distinguished from the performance of another each spirit gives a signal sound before playing. My little Daughter has learned of tunes
by these spirits through their Tuition
seven tunes [2 crossed out indecipherable words] Guitar by our invisible friends all of them new to us all of them entirely new

~~I then proposed to them to answer some questions in reference to their spirit home and they [3 crossed out indecipherable words] to my Queries I placed the Paper close to my hands [2 crossed out indecipherable words] a pencil with which they wrote answers to my Queries I reminded them of a promise made me Six months ago that they would at some future time shake hands with me. I urged my request and was answered Yes by one loud rap. Instantly the Tips of the Fingers were placed on mine It gave me an electric shock. The [1 crossed out indecipherable word] fingers were withdrawn. again I repeated [1 crossed out indecipherable word] my request saying I [crossed out indecipherable word] & again were our hands in contact this experiment was repeated many times until the touch became quite pleasant—Since then we have progressed finely and shake hands with them invariably on their arrival and departure.~~

Their hands and arms are of firm substance & well formed The exterior soft to the Touch Fingers remarkably flexible ~~which enable~~ a pleasant Moisture is at all

(written above the line) The hands of my Wife's mother has been placed in
(written on the line) times on the surface of the Body—~~Myself and Wife have each~~

(written above the line) here which I have been shaking hands at the same moment
(continuation of writing above the same line) with another spirit at
(written on the line) ~~held the hands of one Spirit (indecipherable word) has held both~~

(written above the line) the opposite side of the Table Thus moving the actual
(continuation of writing above the same line) presence of 2 spirits
(written on the line) ~~hands of one Spirit while I have had the hands of another~~

~~Spirit~~ no other person being in the room except myself Wife and medium at other times I have locked myself in a room with the medium ~~and conversing for [indecipherable word] with them Taking and measuring the difference in size of their hands~~ shook hands with the Spirits and find there is as much difference in the size of their hands as in the Human Body I have also been permitted to

Transcriber's note: The top quarter of this page contains three diagonal lines of large poorly formed handwriting. The only legible words are: "sorry to say that"

at another time like raw silk
feel the texture of their drapery which to the touch is like "Mull Muslin" One evening for our gratification they took off my Wife's rings placed them on my fingers

which they fitted exactly

I then put them on the fingers of our Spirit visitor and found ~~[indecipherable word]~~ her fingers being just the size—This passing and exchanging of rings and other little have become frequently done

Feats occupied an hour on one occasion My Wife asked what form ~~[2 indecipherable words]~~ the spirit her Mother to select the Ring she used to wear when on the Earth some 17 years ago It was taken from between four others and given to me We have measured the hands of I propose to present as a souvenir to RJW a Fine Gold Ring

received following in you

as a Keepsake and the reply was writing Mr Benson I thank very Kindly but It will

OC

be of no service to me R.J.W. on another I retired to rest earlier than usual suffering for

with severe Bilious Head Ache at 7 our spirit friends arrived rapped ~~[indecipherable word]~~ Pencil and paper It was placed on the Table ~~The fol~~ when the following was written Mr Benson I think we had better not play on the Guitar to night It might increase your pain—we will all be here tomorrow night Evening Good Night RJW subsequently my head was again affected by Pain and sickness at the stomach at the Time appointed the spirits were present I ask them If they could do me any good that my head ache was constitutional that I never obtained relief without an emetic ansr yes--

Dear Manty

from your city

Since my return home I have been favored with some of the most pleasing & Instructive Manifestations of the Tangibility of Spiritual Organization for the last 10 days I have had the pleasure of shaking hands with my Spirit visitors [~~3 indecipherable words~~]

I am glad to learn by your paper that the cause of truth is prospering and that the so [~~2 indecipherable words~~] Delusions Electricity Magnetism Devilism is still going ahead and that many who listened only to laugh and deride are becoming convert

The manifestations in my own family circle of Spiritual presence are of the character

most Convincing and Instinctive My Spirit Friends now shake hands on their entrance and at their leaving our circle for the last few evenings they have answered us by taking off ~~and positioning~~ their Rings from one Person and placing them on another We have felt their hands and measured them by our own

~~a spirit~~ The hand of a spirit was laid on my head for 5 min several Passes made over entirely

the part effected ~~and I was cured~~ when the pain and sickness was removed.

Many other remarkable manifestations have been given such as Dancing to the Music of the Medium with a distinctness and Precision of steps [~~indecipherable word~~]-[The next line is crossed out and indecipherable]

~~together with the rustling of draperies forces the conviction that we~~

[The next 5 lines are crossed out and the only decipherable words come at the end and are as follows: in the séance we hear the step of the Spirit equally as loud as that of the child!]

~~I must close subscribing myself as yours for~~

Truth and progress.

W B Benson

I enclose you one Dollar subscription for light from the spirit world
(address L C Cholly's
Boonville

also dollar for

with a distinctness and precision of step [indecipherable 2 words, appearing to be a
name] my daughter Elizabeth has been Twice [indecipherable word with them
[2 indecipherable words]

to all [these two words are in large handwriting, not on the line]

I will now close with giving a synopsis of Manifestations that have convinced me of
the reality of the Spirit Presence. Music on the Guitar before the medium knew the
first note Seven times having seen taught her by spirits That neither herself or
given me a test of their
music teacher ever heard before—~~Their having tested their~~ strength by
~~pulling and [2 indecipherable words] of~~ Their telling were to find missing property
correctly—Their giving minute details of Transactions that occurred in their lifetime
and at the time of Death that no one ~~knew~~ present knew anything but afterwards
their
proved to be correct The fact of their ~~giving me their~~ writing ~~indecipherable word~~
names within 5 minutes after the room as been locked up for the purpose The
medium and other persons in adjoining room

Transcriber's note: in the approximate middle of the above passage the words
in reference to are written in large handwriting , not on the lines.
Below the passage is large jumbled writing, some of which is not decipherable. The
words **Lord Baron** appear twice, the first time much larger than the
other writing, as in a signature. Other legible words include **that is my**
name.

Dear Manty

I have so much to tell you that I scarcely know where to begin since my return home Two weeks ago I have been engaged nearly every night with my spirit friends They have ~~[several indecipherable words]~~ with me and have allowed me to feel their ~~Garments Drapery~~ Their manifestations have been of the most Instructive and gratifying nature I have had them dance to their own music on the Guitar at
entertainment

other times they would call upon the medium to play for their certain Tunes which they would designate by playing the first Bar in each Tune and in every case they would Dance to Janes Music keeping accurate time & producing sounds with their feet equal to persons in the body one evening (May 4th) Elizabeth was called to join in the Dance she did so admirably after waiting to catch the step from her invisible partner The following evening I was sick and retired to bed. The spirits came at the appointed time called by rapping for Pencil and Paper upon it being placed on the Table The following words were written ~~without the aid of the~~ independent of the Medium

Mr Benson I think I had better not play this evening it might increase your pain we will all be here tomorrow evening at 7 o clock

Good night R J W

The next evening at 7 I placed a small Gold Pencil on the Table remarking I had bought it for your use and requested the Spirits that were present to write their Names and inform me if it suited them

The following were written in different Handwritings

Lord Baron Present Lord Byron Present

McBland Present Mrs E Fox Present

Miss Rosy Jane Williams Present Miss Rody Williams Present

The pencil suited the rapping and writing being done close to my hands I requested one of the Spirits to touch me

Ans Yes A finger ~~apparently~~ was placed on mine I requested it to be repeated It was done but with great caution My Wife was slightly touched with the tip of the finger since then we have progressed finely my Wife Rings have been taken from her finger and put on mine her curl Papers taken out and given to me ~~we have shaken hands very cordially together frequently and cordially with other Spirit visitors we have measured hands and [indecipherable word]~~ I have also placed My Wifes-rings on the fingers of my spirit visitor ~~her hands have rested in mine for five minutes at a time~~ The name of the spirit ~~[several indecipherable words]~~ Rosy Jane Williams and on one occasion I proposed to present her with one as a Souvenir In reply was written "Mr Benson I thank you very kindly but it will be of no service to me"

I perceive this letter is getting too lengthy I will proceed to last nights experience ~~last night~~ The most beautiful demonstration of Spiritual organization was Physical Power etc

and then

A Ribbon was place in my hand, by my Spirit Guardians and ~~a slight pull was given~~
only
some strong pulling to get it away I retained it by exerting all the strength in my power It is strictly true

Transcriber's Note: The following is written on the lines, but in a somewhat different hand.

The fact of their writing in her presence

could [indecipherable word] not borrow
one from some one
else

Mrs Benson Mr W Benson

Transcriber's Note: Across the left side of the page, in the same area described in the note above is printed vertically: "Thomas A Brother" and an indecipherable word beginning with J. Several words are also written in cursive, the only decipherable words being: "Rosy" and "brother".

This page contains several drawings and partial drawings of a wagon with 4 wheels, a roof and a door. There are no words and no lines on the paper.

Three names are written diagonally in ink, across approximately the center of the page:

Lord Conwalus

Lord Baronas

McBland

At the bottom of the page the following is written in pencil:

will you please send to borrow Miss Ellens [indecipherable word] guitar this evening and I will take good care of it till tomorrow evening

you not take it over

Miss Rosy will you please to cause the medium to sing to your charming music

Mr Benson as Jane feels weary and fatigued I think I had better postpone my speaking until some future time.

Spoken by R.J.W. Thursday 9th 1853

McBland

On this page words and phrases are written in pencil every which way, horizontally, vertically, diagonally and upside down. Some are not legible. The others are as follows:

go to Mr Benson

Benson

May

Thomas L Price
Celeste Price
Jefferson City

go tomorrow
E Y

This page is blank

The letters of the alphabet are written in pencil in uppercase manuscript block writing along the left side of the page. At the top of the page the following is written in ink:

Lord Baron family name

James Baron

Great Grandfather of Lord Baron

was named Joseph Baron

he died 100 yrs ago.

185[the next number is cut off]

The above was given by alphabet De[the next letter is cut off]

under the Bed

At the bottom of the page four lines are written in light pencil, then crossed out.

Go to New Franklin To Night and I will communicate there

It was in consequence of Jane's nervousness
are you happy? Yes what sphere are you in the 3rd
have you seen your mother? Yes she is Happy 4th sphere

Izzie

Father Mother Matilda ~~Elizabeth~~ Jane Willie It is
~~so nice~~

so nice here father It is better than this place

€ everything is so bright In [2 indecipherable crossed out letters] this place.

The words on this page are written horizontally, vertically and diagonally. The vertical writing is entirely in ink and as follows:

Miss Martha L Johnson

Miss Martha L Johnson
Churchill Jefferson County
care of James S. Johnston

I wish you would communicate with me to night—the Spirit answered yes, with pleasure

I have no more to say--

I have no more to say tonight

The horizontal writing is in pencil except for a line of writing that is in ink, written upside down at the bottom of the page: this world is all a fleeting show.

Some of the pencil horizontal writing is right side up and some is upside down. The right side up horizontal pencil writing says: Ellen Fitzgibbons

The upside down horizontal pencil writing appears to be signatures:
[indecipherable first letter] owells
&&&

Mary

At the bottom left of the page there is diagonal pencil writing, some of which has been erased. The only legible words are: more clear than you can

This page also contains a few doodles in pencil. One outlines the words: I have no more to say--.

Most of the words on this page are written upside down at the bottom of the page.
They are:

There no more to
say at present
by alphabet but
I will talk with you
Lord B

The only words written right side up are:
put out th

The letters J P are written vertically.

There are also some doodles similar to those on the previous page.

The name Ellen Fitzgibbon is written four times from the top to approximately the middle of the page. It appears to be a signature.

In the middle of the page is a five letter indecipherable word beginning with the letter L.

At the bottom right of the page, the word Smith is written three times. The final time it is followed by some indecipherable letters.

